WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A motor vehicle drive recorder system for recording motor vehicle data in response to an event declared by an occupant of a motor vehicle, the system comprising:

a sensor for generating sensor signals indicative of motor vehicle data as a function of time;

a switch for generating an event signal indicative of a declared event in response to an occupant of the motor vehicle actuating the switch;

a memory device for storing the sensor signals as a function of time;

an output device for outputting the sensor signals stored in the memory device; and

a processor operable with the sensor, the switch, the memory device, and the output device to write the sensor signals into the memory device, to mark at least one sensor signal written to the memory device as corresponding in time to the declared event in response to the switch generating an event signal, and to transfer from the memory device to the output device the sensor signals stored in the memory device proximate in time to the declared event.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein:

the processor is operable to write the sensor signals into the memory device in response to the switch generating an event signal.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein:

the sensor is disposed within the motor vehicle.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein:

the sensor includes an acceleration sensor for generating a sensor signal indicative of motor vehicle acceleration as a function of time.

5. The system of claim 1 wherein:

the sensor includes a video camera for generating a sensor signal indicative of video images of the environment surrounding the motor vehicle.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein:
the memory device is a non-volatile memory device.

7. The system of claim 1 wherein:
the processor is operable to transfer from the memory device to the output device the sensor signals stored in the memory device before, during, and after the declared event.

8. A method for recording motor vehicle data in response to an event declared by an occupant of a motor vehicle, the method comprising:
generating sensor signals indicative of motor vehicle data as a function of time;
generating an event signal indicative of a declared event in response to an occupant of the motor vehicle actuating a switch;
writing the sensor signals into a memory device for storing the sensor signals;
marking at least one sensor signal written to the memory device as corresponding in time to the declared event in response to the event signal being generated; and
transferring from the memory device to the output device the sensor signals stored in the memory device proximate in time to the declared event.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein:
writing the sensor signals into a memory device includes writing the sensor signals into the memory device in response to the event signal being generated.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein:
generating sensor signals includes generating a sensor signal indicative of motor vehicle acceleration as a function of time.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein:
generating sensor signals includes generating a sensor signal indicative of video images of the environment surrounding the motor vehicle.

12. The method of claim of claim 8 wherein:

transferring from the memory device to the output device the sensor signals stored in the memory device proximate in time to the declared event includes transferring the sensor signals stored in the memory device before, during, and after the declared event.

13. A method for recording motor vehicle data in response to an event declared by an occupant of a motor vehicle, the method comprising:

generating sensor signals indicative of motor vehicle data as a function of time;

generating an event signal indicative of a declared event in response to an occupant of the motor vehicle actuating a switch;

writing the sensor signals into a memory device for storing the sensor signals;

marking at least one sensor signal written to the memory device as corresponding in time to the declared event in response to the event signal being generated; and

transferring from the memory device to the output device the sensor signals stored in the memory device before, during, and after the declared event.